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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

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MONO LAKE: The Rush Creek Case

A crime has been committed against nature. The victim is Mono Lake, with its abundant birdlife of gulls, grebes, and phalaropes. New evidence discovered at Rush Creek could crack the case wide open. Our detectives continue their investigation, unearthing new clues with which to apprehend the culprit.

Learn the intriguing details in an update on the Mono Lake controversy at our general meeting at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 10, which will be held at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda in Berkeley. Hosted by the GGAS Conservation Committee, the discussion with slides will be led by Nini Redway, associate director of the Mono Lake Committee. Keeping abreast of current ecological issues is vital to our success in the political arena.

May Meeting

On May 8 at 7:30, our next meeting, held at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum in S.F., will feature Pete White in a program on the history and natural history of the Farallones Islands.

— TOM WHITE

AUDUBON BIRDATHON '86

On April 26 — the 201st anniversary of John James Audubon's birth — Golden Gate Audubon Society will conduct two very special field trips in conjunction with National Audubon Society's Audubon Birdathon '86. The purpose of these special trips is to raise money to help National Audubon's legal efforts on behalf of Mono Lake. Because of this fundraising effort, we are asking that those who participate in the two special trips pledge \$10.00 plus ten cents per species seen by the group. We also hope that those participating on the trips will urge their friends to sponsor them with pledges of ten cents per species. The details for the two special trips are listed at the end of this article.

Since the defense of Mono Lake is probably the most important, far-reaching project that Audubon is undertaking in California today, it is only fitting that the funds, which would otherwise be earmarked for general use for projects within the Western Region of Audubon and for the Chapter, be put to use for the benefit of Mono Lake. As of March 1, there is \$16,000 in the Mono Lake Legal Fund. National Audubon Society is expecting bills totalling \$38,000 — legal fees billed at half the normal

rate — to arrive very soon. This will mean a deficit of \$22,000. In addition, the Society figures the need to raise an estimated \$18,000 to cover anticipated legal action through the end of its current fiscal year, June 30. So it is extremely important that this Birdathon '86 raise as much money as possible. California chapters may designate any or all of their receipts from the Birdathon to the Mono Lake Legal Fund and the Western Region will match the funds from its portion of the Birdathon receipts on a one-to-one basis. Because the Mono Lake cases are so important, the Board of Directors designated at its February meeting that all of the Chapter's proceeds from the Birdathon go to the Mono Lake Legal Fund.

Besides participating in the two special field trips, there are other ways you may participate in the Birdathon either as a counter or as a sponsor. First, decide which option you prefer of those listed below. Then, fill out the form on the inside back cover of this issue of the *Gull* and submit it to the GGAS office no later than May 1. This deadline is to allow those who may not be able to participate in one of the other options a chance to do so.

The first option is to sponsor one of the four groups of chapter members who will be birding on the 26th: (1) the East Bay Bird Blitz, (2) the S.F. Peninsula Bird Blitz-a-thon, (3) the Mount Diablo State Park field trip group led by Mary Louise Rosegay, or (4) George Peyton, long-time GGAS member who will be in Nepal on a trek to the Everest Base Camp. George assures us that the maximum possible number of species

he will be able to see is 100. Likewise, it is probable that both the East Bay and S.F. Peninsula groups will see something in the vicinity of 100 species, while the Mount Diablo group should see something in the neighborhood of 75 species. With numbers like these, a ten-cent per species minimum pledge is not an unreasonable amount for us to ask, although we realize that some members will be able to pledge less. We strongly urge you to pledge whatever you feel you can: we would like to be able to present National Audubon Society with the largest possible sum for the Mono Lake Legal Fund.

Second, you may wish to sponsor one of the counters participating on the East Bay or S.F Peninsula trips. Many of those participating on these trips will be seeking sponsors for their individual efforts. And we urge you to support your friends who may ask.

Third, there undoubtedly will be members of the Chapter who will be planning to bird longer, more extensive, and different routes than those offered by the special field trips. If you are one of these, please feel free to find sponsors and good luck with your species count.

If you choose any of the above options, please be certain to fill in the form on the inside back cover of this issue of the *Gull* and submit it to the GGAS office no later than May 1. Complete instructions for counters and sponsors are on the form.

SPECIAL BIRDATHON FIELD TRIPS EAST BAY BIRD BLITZ

Please join us on the first-ever East Bay Bird Blitz to coincide with Aud-

ubon Birdathon '86. Meet at the Tilden Regional Park Nature Center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. to look for land birds (warblers, vireos, and who knows what else should be back). Briones (Lazuli bunting?), Alameda South Shore (Clapper rail?), Coyote Hills, and other unusual Easy Bay locations (maybe even the Davis Street dump) are all on the agenda; but, changes due to last minute hot tips are possible. Bring lunch and be prepared to spend all day. Dinner at a local restaurant after the blitz is optional. Leaders: Helen and Paul Green (526-5943) and David Rice.

S.F. PENINSULA BLITZ-A-THON

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the north end of VanNess Avenue in San Francisco by the Muni Pier. We will check for the Great-tailed Grackle and then drive to the Presidio for Hooded Orioles. From there, we will bird the Rhododendron Dell and the Arboretum in Golden Gate Park. If you miss us earlier, we will be at Middle Lake in the Chain of Lakes around 9:00 a.m. We will park by the Buffalo Paddock on Kennedy Drive just east of Chain-of-Lakes Drive. From Golden Gate Park, we will check the coast of San Francisco, Lake Merced (lunch?), and proceed south. We anticipate birding the Bay shore as far south as Mountain View. We will also check a few inland spots. We will return to San Francisco for dinner at a restaurant. Please call either of the leaders if you will join us for dinner. Leaders: Dan Murphy (564-0074) and Alan Hopkins (664-0983).

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, April 5 — Both-Napa State Park. See March *Gull* for details.

Sunday, April 6 — Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. See March *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, April 9 — Mini-trip to Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot in the park. Take Hwy 580 east, watch for the turnoff to Hwy. 680 near Dublin. Take Hwy. 680 south, turnoff at Calaveras Rd., go left, follow the signs to Sunol Park. We may see Lark Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Northern Orioles and resident birds of the area. Bring lunch. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, April 12 — Bodega Bay for Spring Migrants. Meet at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and East Shore Rd. (½ mile north of Diekmann's Bay Store). We will bird Bodega harbor, Bodega head and possibly Salmon Creek. Pack a bag lunch to eat at Conzett's "Tilt City" where land birds abound in the spring.

If you come up Friday, lodging is available at the Best Western Motel (707-875-3525) and The Inn at the Tides (800-541-7788). There are nice campsites at the Dunes State Park just north of our meeting place. Plan to get there early to be sure of getting a spot, or call a Ticketron office to reserve one. Leader: Nancy Conzett (527-2593, Kensington; 707-875-2231, Bodega Bay). (✓)

Sunday, April 13 — Beginners' Trip to Five Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Five Brooks parking lot (about three miles south of Olema on Hwy. 1). We will look for early spring migrants near the pond, then caravan to Audubon Canyon

Ranch with stops along Bolinas Lagoon. Bring your lunch and we will picnic at the Ranch (\$1 contribution). After lunch we'll walk up to the overlook to see the nesting herons and egrets. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Leader: Gloria Markowitz (892-2910). (✓)

Saturday, April 19 — Birding by Ear in Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the west entrance to Briones Regional Park off Bear Creek Rd. Take Hwy. 24 to the Orinda turnoff. Exit and take San Pablo Dam Road northwest about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about two miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right. Meet in the parking area on the left just beyond the fee booth. Be prepared to hike five miles and carry a lunch and liquids through hilly terrain. We will study the songs and calls of common breeding birds of the East Bay. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106). (✓)

Sunday, April 20 — Mines Road, Livermore. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center at S. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will drive on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids. We can expect to see Northern Orioles, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Roadrunners and Wild Turkeys have also been seen on this trip. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Saturday, April 26 — Golden Gate Audubon will be sponsoring two birdathons as a benefit for Mono Lake. One of the trips will be in San Francisco and the Peninsula, the other trip will cover East Bay hot spots. Participants will be asked to make a contribution of \$10 plus 10 cents for each species seen. Details of these trips will be found elsewhere

in this issue of the *Gull*.

Sunday, April 27 — Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Rock City parking area. From Oakland go east on I-580, then north on I-680 to Danville and follow the signs east on Diablo Rd. to the park. Consult your map for alternate routes. The first available parking is at Rock City, about one mile inside the south entrance station gate. Bring lunch and liquids. We will look for spring birds and wildflowers.

GGAS field trips this weekend are being run as benefits for Mono Lake. Therefore, it is requested that each participant donate at least five cents per species seen to Mono lake. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

Sunday, May 4 — Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at Arlington Ave. and Brewster Dr. in El Cerrito. From there we will drive to the starting point. Pack lunch and liquids for a six-mile hike. Boots are advisable. We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird in brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a good representation of nesting and migrating birds of the East Bay. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. The trip will end at 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (841-3086). (✓)

Sunday, May 11 — Mt. St. Helena. Meet at 8 a.m. at the junction of Ida Clayton Rd. and Hwy. 128, 6.3 miles north of Calistoga. Bring lunch and liquids. Carpool if at all possible because parking is very limited and we must caravan to bird the road. Call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) and leave your name and phone number if you plan to go

on this trip. Leader: Dick Johnson (530-7118). (✓)

Note from the Field Trips Committee: We need leaders for local trips during the summer. If you are experienced in birding a productive area during the summer and would like to share your experience with others, please call Shirley Kelly (387-8290).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY OBSERVATIONS through February 28

As some of you may have read in this column last month, our long-time Observations Editor, Dr. Stephen F. Bailey, has put down the quill and moved on to new endeavors. His carefully researched and written columns have filled us in on bird comings and goings for 7½ years. His is a hard act to follow, and he is already missed.

I would like to reaffirm the same geographical observation boundaries which have been passed down from Don Roberson, as mentioned in Steve's column of October 1978: roughly Point Araen, Sacramento and Gray Lodge refuges, the edge of the Sierra foothills, Los Banos and the Monterey area, plus adjacent marine waters — with occasional straying out of sheer sloppiness or uncontrollable excitement.

Roberson has mentioned the

February and March "doldrums" in the birding world. This February it was "doldrums" for birds as well as birders. January ended with a disastrous oil spill off the coast, spreading destruction from at least Monterey to Point Reyes, and killing and injuring several thousand birds. In addition, a week-long storm in mid-February was ranked among the worst of the century. Its impact on birds will not be known for some time, but it certainly kept a lot of birders from their usual rounds.

Farallones, December 22 through January 22

An absence of Eared Grebes around the island is of interest. Usually in small concentrated flocks of 100 or more birds in winter, Eared Grebes were noted on 5 days only, with a high count of 10 birds. Interesting winter visitants to the island were: a Great Blue Heron present throughout the period; one Black Brant Jan. 16-28; an immature male Harlequin Duck arriving Jan. 22; and a Rock Sandpiper present from Dec. 31 through the period (all PRBO).

Tubenoses

Laysan Albatrosses were observed in unusual numbers close to the coast. It is possible the jet stream's shift from a northerly path to one coming more directly from Hawaii brought the influx: at Cordell Banks one on Feb. 2 (SW), and five on Feb. 3 (RM); in the Monterey Area one near Hopkins Marine Station Feb. 4 (possibly oiled) (RT), and two on the Bay Feb. 23 (SJ); at the Port of Oakland three hitch-hikers, who arrived on an Indian freighter Feb. 3, spent 10 day recuperating at the Rotary Natural Science Center, and were then shipped out to Hawaii via Matson Lines (RNSC). Other pelagic species reported from Monterey were 47 Black-vented

Shearwaters Feb. 16 (SJ) and single Pink-footed, Black-vented, and Short-tailed Shearwaters Feb. 22 (SJ).

Waterbirds

Only ten Cattle Egret were reported from three locations during the period (mob). Two **Trumpeter Swans** appeared with 500 Tundra Swans on King Island in San Joaquin County Feb. 1 (DY). A Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal was seen at Alameda South Shore Feb. 8 (DC) and, presumably the same bird, at Arrowhead Marsh through Feb. 22 (HG et al.). The female Tufted Duck at the Zoo in Golden Gate Park was reported at Metson Lake Feb. 25 (LE), and a male Tufted Duck was on O'Neill Forebay in Merced County Feb. 16 (JK). The single Harlequin Ducks remained at Rodeo Lagoon Feb. 25 (GH) and Bolinas Lagoon through the period (mob). A lingering Oldsquaw at Moss Landing Harbor was joined by a second individual Feb. 24 (DSu), and the Princeton Harbor bird was seen throughout the period (mob).

Raptors through Alcids

An adult "Harlan's" race of the Red-tailed Hawk, unusual coastally, was seen in Nicasio Valley Feb. 5 (RS) and Feb. 19 (GFe). Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported from diverse locations: one at Fort Point through Jan. 31 (mob), one at Lodi Sewage Treatment Plant Feb. 9 (*fulva*, the expected race in winter) (DY, JM), and seven at Lawson's Landing Feb. 19 (RH). The Princeton Rock Sandpiper was not reported after Feb. 1, but this species was seen at two other locations in San Mateo County, one north of Bean Hollow on Highway 1 Feb. 9 (DAH), and another at nearby Pebble Beach Feb. 22-23 (SFB, JZ et al.). Red Phalaropes were considered abundant outside Monterey Harbor Feb. 11 (GF),

but only 50 were reported on a Monterey pelagic trip Feb. 16 (SJ). One Glaucous Gull was reported from Pebble Beach, San Mateo County Feb. 1 (SF, et al.), and another from Santa Clara County at Mt. View Shoreline Lake Feb. 6 (AE). Two Little Gulls and the Common Black-headed Gull were seen through Feb. 10 (DW). Many Common Murres were seen near Berkeley and Emeryville shores and were probably birds cleaned and released following the oil spill (mob).

Landbirds

Seven Vaux's Swift were seen flying over the U.C. Santa Cruz campus Feb. 21 (DSu). The adult male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at the Cheese Factory, Marin County was still being seen through Feb. 9 (BW, mob). The Red-naped Sapsucker at the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco was still present Feb. 23 (TCo, mob). A Cassin's Kingbird was found in Paicines, San Benito County Feb. 8 (BS, SCBC). Another Cassin's Kingbird was reported from San Benito County on New Idria Road Feb. 15 (JZ). The **Bendire's Thrasher** near Lodi was still being seen Feb. 15 (DW, mob). An immature Northern Shrike remained in Panoche Valley at least through Feb. 21 (BT, DS). A Tennessee Warbler appeared in Glen Canyon Park Feb. 2 (AH). The Neary's Lagoon Prairie Warbler was last reported Feb. 9 (DAH). A Lark Bunting was found in North Lodi Jan. 31-Feb. 2 (DY, mob), and another was discovered in Northeast Merced County Feb. 12-15 (EC). Six Lapland Longspurs were still present at Menlo Park Bayfront Park Feb. 23 (JMS). The Rusty Blackbird on Cloverdale Road was last sighted on Feb. 1 (SF, mob).

Siskiyou County provided birding

excitement this winter in the form of **Common Redpolls**. A small flock was first found on the Tule Lake CBC; then up to 28 were discovered at the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (at a location very near the Oregon border) Jan. 20 (DSi, DR). This is the first flock reported in California since 1899. They have remained in the same general area through Feb. 24 (RSp, mob).

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Eric Caine, Tom Condit, Deborah Cotter, Elizabeth Dickey, Al Eisner, Lee Elias, Michael Eziekial, Gary Fellers (GFe), George Finger (GF), Shawneen Finnigan, Brad Goodhart, Helen Green, Paul Green, Peggy Gross, Rob Haden, David A. Holway, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, James Kieran, Roger Marlowe, many observers (mob), Joseph Morlan, Michael Perrone, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Jack Swenson), Lina Prairie, Deborah Rames (DR), David Rice, Mary Louise Rosegay, Rotary Natural Science Center, Santa Cruz Bird Club, Barbara Sharfenstein, Shearwater Journeys, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Dan Singer (DS), Richard Spight (RSp), Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup (RS), David Suddjian (DSu), Rich Ternullo, Bob Tintly, Bruce Walker, Janet Wessel, Steve Wilson, David Wimpfheimer, David Yee, John Zablackis.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 843-2211.

— HELEN A. GREEN
Observations Editor
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CONSERVATION NOTES **ACID FOG STUDY**

Rep. Sala Burton, with the support of eight Bay Area co-sponsors, Reps. Robert Matsui, Norman Mineta, Barbara Boxer, Pete Stark, Tom Lantos, Don Edwards, and Ed Zschau, has introduced legislation to direct the Environmental Protection Agency to identify and assess the importance of climatic and seasonal factors affecting acid deposition. It would include the nine Bay Area counties in the study, and would look into the effects on human health, plant life, water, soil, chemistry and the potential economic and environmental consequences of acid deposition. It would call for the public notice of acid content data in air quality readings in the daily weather report.

“The glorious fog-shrouded pictures of our City may have obscured our view of the damaging effects this phenomenon could have on the health of the Bay Area inhabitants and our environment. Many researchers believe that acid fog is more dangerous than acid rain, its better known relative,” said Rep. Burton in introducing the bill.

SB 1717

The Planning and Conservation League urges support of this very important urban space legislation. It would provide funds to preserve agricultural, open space, park and natural lands in large blocs close to cities throughout California.

Letters to your State Senator and Assemblyman would be of help.

SAVING OUR POLLUTED BAY

The U.S. Geological Survey recently published in *Science* the results of a 4 year study on the state of S.F. Bay. They found serious environmental damage resulting from pollution, toxics and the diversion of our freshwater inflows to the South.

What can we do? The Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE) is holding a workshop to discuss the S.F. Bay Basin Plan. This Plan is developed by the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and forms the standards by which the Board regulates Bay pollution. It is being revised this year and the public can definitely have an impact on this process. GGAS is co-sponsoring this event and encourages all its members to take part. The meeting will take place April 12 at a place to be announced, from 10:30 to 3:30. There will be guest panelists. For more information call CBE at 788-0690.

CONDOR UPDATE

In the February *Gull* an article and fund appeal concerned the California Condor. Before bringing you up to date on this issue I would like to take a minute to respond to one of our members who wrote disagreeing with our position. She wrote, in part, "...captivity doesn't have to be 'eternal'...but to cause extinction surely is!"

Extinction is, of course, final. But captivity may, indeed, become "eternal" if no wild Condors remain. Nearly all their known habitats are now planned for some type of adverse development: 1) oil and gas leases in the Los Padres National Forest, 2) a ski

resort in the Sierra within one mile of present condor nesting site and 3) the Hudson ranch, their 15,000 acre feeding area has been bought by a developer.

Without wild Condors present in these areas demonstrating the need for habitat preservation, the justification for this preservation becomes purely theoretical. Theory is a poor weapon when faced by the dollars and cents of development projects. I greatly fear that a zoo-only Condor population now, means a zoo-only population forever.

Now for the update. A Federal Judge in Washington, D.C. has issued an order restraining the US Fish and Wildlife Service from any further trapping of Condors. The F&WS appealed and lost. These are, however, only temporary victories. Compromise positions are still being sought. National Audubon continues to insist that some Condors be left in the wild both for the reason stated above and because they feel that with a five year maturing process, the young birds need in-the-wild training from adult birds to learn their traditional feeding and nesting sites.

GGAS supports and applauds National Audubon in their efforts. The response to our February fund appeal was generous. However, the lawsuit, to date, has cost NAS over \$50,000. We again urge all of you involved in this battle to send contributions to our office, earmarked for the Condor legal fund, and we will forward it to NAS.

One piece of good news! Of the five (and possibly seven) wild Condors, two have been seen mating, and an egg is hoped for soon.

— ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

If you know where an owl regularly perches you might find something of interest on the ground below: an owl pellet or "casting." Pellets signal an owl's daytime roost as well, and in areas where snow covers the ground they are easy to find.

These ovoid pellets are usually greyish or brown and consist of indigestible matter (bones, teeth, fur, feathers, hard insect parts — even rubber bands!). Since owls tend to swallow their food whole, their gizzard apparently separates the softer substances from that which they cannot digest. These hard or sharp objects are enclosed by a smooth mass of fur or feathers. The pellet moves upward where it is held for several hours in the uppermost of two stomach-like enlargements. It is thought that the bird cannot eat again until this pellet has been regurgitated. For those of you who are not squeamish, these dried pellets can be pulled apart and examination will reveal your particular owl's diet.

Owls and other raptors are not the only birds with this unique system. Grebes, cormorants, herons, jays, rails, gulls and terns, dippers, fly-catchers, thrushes, shrikes and kinglets are some species known to produce pellets. In fact, it may be that all birds use this method of sorting out useable food. Finding the tiny pellet ejected by a small songbird among dense vegetation would be next to impossible!

Aside from eliminating solid wastes, this process may be essential to the good health of these birds. From experience in feeding sick or injured raptors, it has been noted that this "roughage" is necessary. In regurgitating pellets, the upper digestive tract is probably cleaned.

From the standpoint of scientists

close examination of pellets yields valuable data on feeding habits and diets of various species of birds. The pellet of one Screech Owl contained a whole tarsal bone of an American Goldfinch, complete with metal band! You, however, may prefer simply to read of such interesting facts and to leave the close study of pellets to the scientists.

— MEG PAULETICH

P.S. After submitting last month's article on the California Condor, I came across a wonderful quote from Will Beebe: "The beauty and genius of a work of art may be reconceived, though its first material expression be destroyed; a vanished harmony may yet again inspire the composer; but when the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another earth must pass away before such a one can be again."

LEAST TERN SEARCH

The California Least Tern is an endangered species whose numbers are diminishing. To provide maximum protection it is important that all the areas which are essential to its survival and breeding success be known. It is not clear how the Least Tern migrates from the southern latitudes to the Bay Area, but it is suspected that it must rely on certain stop-over locations for rest and food. Suitable habitat would be quiet, shallow waters along the coast such as that provided where creeks and rivers drain into the ocean.

All observations of Least Terns are of great interest, but the Least Tern Study would especially like birders to keep this small tern in mind when birding the coast or other waters this spring. It is often the week-end birder who makes important discoveries. As a team, birders of California might be able to put its migration puzzle together.

er. The Least Tern arrives on the shores of San Francisco Bay from late April to the first week of May. There are about 65 breeding pairs left in the Bay Area. They need all the help we can give them. Please send observation reports to Leora Feeney (1338 Eighth St., Alameda, CA 94501 (415) 522-8525) or Laura Collins (1517 Woolsey St., Berkeley, CA 94793 (415) 843-3263). Include information on field identification, date, time, number of birds, activity and location of observation.

— LEORA FEENEY

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Golden Gate Audubon Society announces a scholarship program for local natural history or conservation classes, workshops or conferences. Funds are available for programs at Audubon Canyon Ranch, Point Reyes Bird Observatory and similar organizations. Though anyone may apply for scholarships, active GGAS members will be preferred candidates. You may apply in writing to the Education Committee, GGAS, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709. Your letter of application should include a brief description of your activities in the Society (i.e. attend meetings, participate on Christmas Counts, etc.); a description of the class, workshop or conference; the time, place, sponsor and cost of it; and any other relevant information. Scholarships are for tuition only, not mileage, college credit fees, meals or lodging. You will be notified by mail of the decision of the review committee.

— DAN MURPHY

NEW EAST BAY TRAIL

East Bay Regional Park District's spectacular new Mission Peak to Del Valle Trail, traversing some of the Bay Area's most beautiful and unspoiled back country, is open to the public for day use.

Kiosks at Del Valle Regional Park and Sunol Regional Wilderness will be staffed on a year-round basis to distribute information and trail permits to visitors using the trail.

In general, trail use will be limited to hikers and horseback riders. Users will be required to obtain a permit including a detailed map. These will be available at Del Valle and Sunol kiosks, at several information panel, and at district headquarters, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland.

Initially the trail is open for day use only. Visitors wishing to take one-day hikes in and out of the area will have convenient trail access from three locations: Del Valle Regional Park south of Livermore, the headquarters area of Sunol Regional Wilderness on Geary Road south of Sunol, and the staging area for Mission Peak Regional Preserve at the east end of Stanford Avenue in Fremont.

As described from west to east, the trail starts at the Stanford Ave. trailhead and proceeds to Sunol Regional Wilderness through Mission Peak and lands leased from San Francisco. Then it continues through Sunol and Ohlone Regional Wilderness and turns north to Lake Del Valle in Del Valle Regional Park south of Livermore.

Along the way are a variety of natural settings, from deep, oak-studded canyons to high, windswept ridges offering panoramic views of Central California and the Bay Area. Wildlife abounds and wildflower displays are profuse in the spring. This trail should provide

plenty of opportunity to see many oak-woodland and grassland bird species during any season, and the chance to enjoy the return of nesting birds and vagrants in late April and May.

Much of the trail is on ranch roads, but about five miles were constructed by hard-working crews from California Conservation Corps and East Bay Conservation Corps.

The Mission Peak to Del Valle Trail rivals park district's showcase East Bay Skyline National Trail, which stretches 30 miles along ridges above the East Bay Shoreline. Both trails are part of the district's regional trail network linking its parks and other public recreation lands.

— HELEN GREEN

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

New York Walk Book, 5th Edition. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Anchor Press Doubleday: Garden City, New York, 1984. \$12.95

Anyone who views the New York Metropolitan Area as a concrete wasteland devoid of natural beauty should take this book and go East! More than just a guide to several hundred miles of trails stretching from the Kittatinny Mountain Ridge on the New Jersey-Pennsylvania line to the southern Taconics of the Massachusetts-Connecticut-New York boundary area, the *New York Walk Book* contains a wealth of geological, cultural, and natural history of the region. After reading this book, I wanted to pack my knapsack and head east to walk the Palisades Trail along the Hudson, through the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, and the Shawangunk (pronounced "shon gum") Mountains.

A number of the walks described in the book are within easy reach of Manhattan by public transit. The walk descriptions contain information on

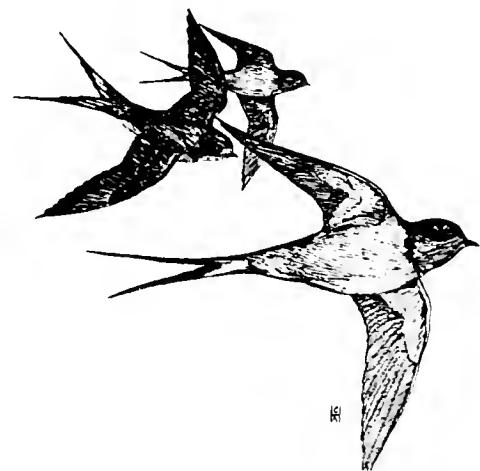
which busses to take and where to meet them in order to get back to the city at the end of the walk. I should think that anyone with a few hours or more to kill in the Big Apple could easily escape the hustle and bustle of the city to find a bit of natural beauty. The *New York Walk Book* is in paperback and about the size of field guide for easy carrying in either a book pouch or knapsack.

— JON ZABLACKIS

ANNUAL GGAS MEETING Wine Tasting: Benefit for ACR

Meet fellow GGAS members while enjoying a variety of fine wines at Tiburon's beautiful Lyford House. Lyford House sits on the edge of Richardson's Bay, a great place to spend a Sunday afternoon. Our annual meeting will take place on June 15 from 2-4 p.m. This event is an important fundraiser for Audubon Canyon Ranch, home of one of California's largest heron rookeries. We are asking a donation of \$15 per person. Hope to see many of you there. (NOTE: If you know of any liquor outlets, wineries or wine connoisseurs who might be able to donate wine (tax-deductible!) for this event, call me at 326-5832.)

— CHRIS SWARTH



FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL OFFERINGS

Call the Adult School at 791-5841 for information on birding classes. A series starts April 22 to meet on six Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. A One-day class, Birding Mines Road, will meet April 12. Alice Hoch is the instructor. For this students must pre-register and there is fee of \$13.

PIEDMONT BIRDING CLASSES

A Piedmont Adult School birding class, sponsored by GGAS, will focus on identification of landbirds by their behavior, habitat, appearance and voice. The instructor is GGAS member Dr. Michael Perrone.

For information, call the school, 653-9454 or 658-3679, day or night. The class starts Wednesday, April 16 and ends Saturday, May 24. It will meet at Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

ALAMEDA APRIL BIRD WALKS

The Alameda Park and Recreation Dept. sponsors four Thursday morning bird walks beginning April 3, 9:30 a.m. at Lincoln Park, High and Santa Clara in Alameda. Shorebirds in spring breeding plumage will be studied as well as birds of the marsh, open field and city gardens. The leader is Patricia Boese. There is a fee of \$15 with a 25% discount for Gold Card seniors. For information phone 522-4100, ext. 227, or 339-8374.

THE ECOLOGY OF BIRD SONG

Join an outdoor lecture and walk through Stanford's Jasper Ridge nature

preserve. Dr. Dave De Sante of PRBO will lead the walk starting at 8 a.m. April 20, and lasting until noon. He hopes to illustrate his lecture with examples in the field. The University limits size of groups admitted to the preserve, and therefore, reservations are required. You may phone Jackie Barshow at (408) 379-5526. The Nature Sounds Society meetings are open to all interested in natural sounds. For information call Paul Matzner at the Oakland Museum (415) 273-3884.

THE ASSISI BIRD CAMPAIGN/USA

A benefit evening for the campaign, of which National Audubon is supporter, will be held at the UC Theatre, University Ave. at Shattuck, Berkeley, on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. Earl Robinson's cantata about St. Francis, "The Joy of Francis" will be performed — a world premiere — together with the US premiere of a new Italian film, "Just Before Dawn", by director Enrico Bellani. Admission is \$9 at the box office, which, with other donations to ABC/USA, is tax deductible.

ABC/USA is devoted to bringing the birds back to Assisi. Its chairman, Bert Schwartzchild, lives in Berkeley.

CLASSES

The GGAS office has received the Point Reyes Field Seminar's spring brochure announcing a series of classes and activities of considerable interest. If you want a copy, write to the PRFS at the Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes, CA 94956 or phone (415) 663-1200. For example, there is a class announced by Jules Evens: Beginning Birding. The fee is \$25.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, (415) 383-1644
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies

Flora MacLise, Chairman

In celebration of Audubon Canyon Ranch's 25th anniversary year, Founder's Day was held March 22 at the Bolinas Preserve. It paid tribute to the vision, boldness and dedication of founders L. Martin Griffin, Jr., William S. Picher and Aileen Pierson in purchasing and forming Audubon Canyon Ranch and permanently establishing Bolinas Lagoon, Kent Island and Tomales Bay Wildlife Preserves.

The event also recognized the efforts of the directors of Marin and Golden Gate Audubon Societies who initiated the project and formed the ACR corporation, as well as all the organizations and individuals who have selflessly given time and financial support during the past quarter century.

The celebration included the opening of the new history exhibit in Wattis Hall by its designer, Clerin Zumwalt. This was followed by a reception in Volunteer Canyon where guests were welcomed by founders Aileen Pierson and L. Martin Griffin, Jr..

ACR manager Skip Schwartz reported some damage to creeks and trails at the Bolinas Preserve as the result of February storms. There was intense flooding in all three canyons which cut away banks and left heavy

gravel deposits. A section of the marsh boardwalk was displaced at Cypress Grove and a large tree fell. There was only minor damage to the Bouverie Preserve in Sonoma.

Anne Monk will begin work this month at the Bolinas Preserve assisting Ray Peterson as an educator/naturalist. She graduated from UC Berkeley in biological science and is currently a Masters candidate in evolutionary science at San Francisco State University. She has most recently been an instructor at the California Academy of Science. In addition to her science background she has special skills in art and photography which she uses as an editorial photographer for the San Diego Home and Garden Magazine.

The following events are available next month at the Bolinas Preserve:

Second Annual ACR Downhill Hike with Ray Peterson on Saturday, May 10. This is especially for the out-of-shape occasional hiker.

On May 17 It's Our Fault: The Geology of Bolinas Lagoon will be the focus of a field trip with Tim Hall. Come see the northern migrations — of rocks, this time, not birds.

The weekend of May 24 and 25 Memorable Critters: Those Amazing Insects and Their Allies can be explored with Ray Peterson. Extension semester credit may be earned on this one.

This spring season's activities at the Ranch are listed in an attractive leaflet just out. You may have one by phoning (415) 383-1644.

RICHARDSON BAY BENEFIT

A fund raiser — A Champagne Brunch Auction — will be held June 1 in support of the Richardson Bay Wild Life Sanctuary. The sponsor, Pacific Waters, is seeking donations of money and merchandise such as tires, chain-saws, or whatever. Also welcome as auction items would be legal, dental, typing, cooking, portraiture, music, teaching or other services. Pacific Waters is made up entirely of volunteers so every cent raised goes to the sanctuary. Call chairman Jack Cutter for information at (415) 245-0222.

CALL FOR DOCENTS

The Docent's Council of the Oakland Museum is looking for docents, and will be starting a series of docent training classes soon. You may phone the Council office during working hours at (415) 273-3514.

THE COOPER SOCIETY

The featured speaker at the April meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be John Carothers of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, UC, Berkeley. His subject is Hawaiian honeycreepers.

The meeting will be at UC Berkeley, Life Sciences Bldg., Room 2503, Monday, April 7 at 8 p.m., preceded by a business session at 7:45. Everyone interested in birds is invited.

THE BAY AREA BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

A meeting is held at Baylands the first Wednesday of each month by this group. Announcements usually arrive too late to be included in the *Gull*. If you are interested, write to them at 1019 Loma Prieta Court, Los Altos, CA 94022 to be included on their mailing list.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of

Don Brodie

Marjorie Harrie

Alice Snyder

Gift of

The Orrin Richards Family

Claire R. Roy

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Elinor & Julius Freitag

Elinor & Julius Freitag

For The Sanctuary Fund

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

THE AUDUBON BIRDATHON '86 COUNTER/SPONSOR INFORMATION

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY is taking part in the National Audubon Society Birdathon '86. We need the support of all members to make it a success. Many of the Chapter's top birders will be going out to count as many bird species as they can find April 26 to raise much needed funds for Mono Lake legal efforts. Won't you help? Here is how:

1. BE A COUNTER: Recruit sponsors to pledge a sum of money for each species you count during the Birdathon, either on one of the GGAS field trips or one of your own.
2. BE A SPONSOR: Use the form below to sponsor one of the birding teams listed there.

Contributions to the Audubon Birdathon '86 are tax deductible. All funds collected will go directly to the Mono Lake Legal Fund. Help save Mono Lake!

Count on me to be a COUNTER in our chapter Birdathon '86. Send me details right away! (Counter forms are available at the GGAS office if you need them.)

Count on me to be a SPONSOR in our chapter Birdathon '86. I pledge _____ cents/dollars per species seen by:
 The First-ever East Bay Bird Blitz
 The S.F. Peninsula Bird Blitzathon
 The Mount Diablo State Park Group
 GGAS' George Peyton in Nepal

(My maximum contribution will not exceed \$ _____.)

GGAS' best birders are so good that I'm afraid of the effect on my pocketbook. I'd rather send a straight contribution of \$ _____ to support Mono Lake. Here is my check.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Return this form to:

Birdathon Coordinator, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
1550 Shattuck Ave., #204
Berkeley, CA 94704.

Please make all checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society.

—SECOND CLASS MATTER



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

1550 Shattuck Avenue #204

Berkeley, California 94709

Return Postage Guaranteed

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.